

Message Text

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TAGS: PFOR, LE
SUBJECT: REQUESTS FOR INTERVIEWS WITH SECRETARY KISSINGER
AND OTHERS BY LEBANESE JOURNALISTS

1. IN COURSE OF CURRENT INTENSIVE U.S. DIPLOMATIC INITIATIVES IN MIDEAST, SEVERAL MAJOR LEBANESE PUBLICATIONS HAVE REQUESTED INTERVIEWS WITH SECRETARY KISSINGER. ALL WOULD SEND AT THEIR OWN EXPENSE EITHER THE PUBLISHER OR A LEADING EDITOR. EMBASSY HAS NOT ENCOURAGED ANY OF THESE REQUESTS, BUT SUBMITS THEM FOR DEPARTMENT'S CONSIDERATION. EMBASSY WOULD ALSO WELCOME INDICATIONS OF OTHERS, SUCH AS UNDER SECRETARY SISCO OR ASSISTANT SECRETARY ATHERTON, WHO, IF SECRETARY NOT AVAILABLE, MIGHT PROVIDE IN DEPTH INTERVIEWS. BELIEVE MOST OF THESE JOURNALISTS WOULD BE ALSO INTERESTED IN INTERVIEWS WITH APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS AT SAME LEVEL OUTSIDE DEPT OF STATE ON U.S. ENERGY POLICIES AND U.S. ARMS SALES IN MIDEAST.

2. PUBLICATIONS REQUESTING INTERVIEWS WITH THE SECRETARY ARE: (A) LEADING INDEPENDENT ARABIC DAILY "AN NAHAR" AND SISTER FRENCH LANGUAGE "L'ORIENT-LE JOUR." "AN NAHAR" CIRCULATES EXTENSIVELY IN SYRIA AND GULF AREA, AS WELL AS IN LEBANON, WHILE "L'ORIENT-LE JOUR" IS READ IN SYRIA AND LEBANON.
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PAPERS WOULD NORMALLY SEND PUBLISHER GHASSAN TUENI

AND ASST. CHIEF EDITOR MARWAN HAMADEH BUT SINCE TUENI SERVING AS MINISTER IN CURRENT GOVERNMENT, HAMADEH MIGHT TRAVEL ALONE. (B) CONSERVATIVE PRO-SAUDI DAILY "AL HAYAT" AND SISTER ENGLISHE LANGUAGE "DAILY STAR." "DAILY STAR" CHIEF EDITOR JIHAD KHAZEN, WHO TENTATIVELY PLANNING VISIT U.S. IN SEPTEMBER, WOULD DO THE INTERVIEW ON BEHALF OF BOTH PAPERS. KHAZEN PRESSING FOR ANSWER BY END JULY SO THAT HE CAN FIRM UP HIS ITINERARY. HIS QUESTIONS WOULD FOCUS ON MATTERS OF PARTICULAR CONCERN TO ARAFAT AND PLO, AS HE DISCUSSED REQUEST WITH ARAFAT AT TIME HE SUBMITTED IT. (C) INDEPENDENT "AL-HAWADITH", LARGEST LEBANESE WEEKLY WITH EXTENSIVE CIRCULATION THROUGHOUT ARAB WORLD. INTERVIEW WOULD BE CONDUCTED BY CHIEF EDITOR NABIL KHURI, WHO CANNOT BE TRUSTED TO RESPECT REMARKS ON BACKGROUND, ETC. KHURI MIGHT BE ACCCOMPANIED BY PUBLISHER SELIM LAWZI WHO NORMALLY DOES MAJOR INTERVIEWS HIMSELF BUT WHOSE ENGLISH IS NOT ADEQUATE FOR THIS PROJECT. (D) INDEPEDENT "AL-USBU' AL-ARABI", SECOND LARGEST LEBANESE WEEKLY, ALSO WITH EXTENSIVE CIRCULATION THROUGHOUT ARAB WORLD. INTERVIEWER WOULD BE CHIEF EDITOR SAMIR ATALLAH, FORMERLY FOREIGN EDITOR OF "AN-NAHAR". (E) INDEPENDENT ENGLISH-LANGUAGE WEEKLY "MONDAY MORNING". INTERVIEWER WOULD BE EITHER STAFFER MAHA SAMARA, WHO HAS OFFERED COMPLETELY CONTROLLED INTERVIEW WITH QUESTIONS TO BE SUBMITTED IN ADVANCE AND ANY SUGGESTED BY INTERVIEWER TO BE INCLUDED, OR POSSIBLY CO-PUBLISHER IMAD SHEHADEH, WHO PLANNING VISIT THE U.S. IN EARLY FALL.

3. WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S COMMENTS PLUS ANY SUGGESTIONS AS TO ADDITIONAL INTERVIEWEES.
GODLEY

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